Increasing of fertilizer prices

†1587. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is unprecedentd increase in the prices of fertilizer;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase; and

(c) the measures being taken for checking the increase in the prices of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The selling price of fertilizers under the subsidy regime has remained constant for the last 5 years. The selling prices of the subsidized fertilizers are placed at statement I. (*See* below). The international price of fertilizers and fertilizer inputs has increased considerably in the last few years, as can be seen from the details at statement-II (*See* below). The international prices depend upon prevailing demand-supply scenario in the world. The Government has been encouraging the industry to increase indigenous production, especially of urea, to reduce import dependence in the fertilizer sector, which will have some moderating impact on international prices of fertilizers.

Statement-I

Maximum Retails Price of subsidized fertilizers

(Rupees per MT)

Urea	4830
DAP	9350
MOP	4455
16:20:00	7100
20:20:00	7280
23:23:00	8000
28:28:00	9080
10:26:26	8360
12:32:16	8480
14:28:14	8300
14:35:14	8660
15:15:15	6980
17:17:17	8100
19:19:19	8300

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-II

Year/Month — *Average International Prices in USD (PMT)*

	Urea (C&F)	DAP (C&F)	MOP (C&F)	Phos Acid (C&F)	Rock Phosph-ate (C&F)	Ammo-nia (C&F)	Sulphur (C&F)
2002-03	110	183	120	342	56	126	84
2003-04	**156**	203	123	356	56	215	84
2004-05	**202**	260	180	403	59	244	90
2005-06	**243**	290	215	445	80	260	94
2006-07	**257**	330	213	464	81	300	76
April'07	**335**	505	250	566	79	352	138
September'07	340	534	280	566	121	263	237
February '08	410	922	450	1437	245	485	614
% change-April 2007 over 2002-03	205%	176%	108%	65%	41%	179%	64%
% change-Feb'2008 over April 2007	22%	83%	80%	154%	210%	38%	345%

Diversion of PDS Grains

1588. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last three years PDS diversion worth Rs. 31,500 crores has taken place;

(b) if so, whether investigations have been made, culprits booked and exemplary punishments given;

(c) whether the Planning Commission had given any report on this sorry state of affairs;

(d) if so, the findings of this report; and

(e) whether any immediate remedial measures were taken to avoid such recurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) No, Sir. This amount of diversion of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) foodgrains was wrongly mentioned in Press Report in the Times of India dated 17th September, 2007. This Press Report seems to have used some figures of diversion reported in the study conducted